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Senate passes bill to protect kids online and make tech companies accountable for harmful content

By MARY CLARE JALONICK
and BARBARA ORTUTAY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate overwhelmingly passed legislation Tuesday that is designed to protect children from dangerous on-line content, pushing forward with what would be the first major effort by Congress in decades to hold tech companies more accountable for the harm that they cause. The bill, which passed 91-3, has been pushed by parents of children who died by suicide after online bullying or have otherwise been harmed by online content. It would force companies to take reasonable steps to prevent harm on online platforms frequently used by minors, requiring them to exercise "duty of care" and ensure that they generally default to the safest settings possible.



Sen. Ed Markey, D-Mass., right, listens while Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., left, offers remarks following the Senate Democrats policy luncheon at the U.S. Capitol Tuesday, July 30, 2024, in Washington.

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Senate passes bill to protect kids online and make tech companies accountable for harmful content

Continued from From

The House has not yet acted on the bill. Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., has said he is "committed to working to find consensus," but has not said whether he will bring it to the floor for a vote. Supporters are hoping that the strong Senate vote will push the House to act before the end of the congressional session in January.

President Joe Biden encouraged the House to send the legislation to his desk "without delay."

"Today our children are subjected to a wild west online and our current laws and regulations are insufficient to prevent this," Biden said. "It is past time to act."

The legislation is about allowing children, teens and parents "to take back control of their lives online," said Democratic Sen. Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut, who wrote the bill with Republican Sen. Marsha Blackburn of Tennessee. He said that the message to big tech companies is that "we no longer trust you to make decisions for us."

The bill would be the first major tech regulation package to move in years, and it could potentially pave the way for other bills that would strengthen online privacy laws or set parameters for the growing use of artificial intelligence, among others. While there has long been bipartisan support for the idea that the biggest technology companies should face more government scrutiny, there has been little consensus on how it should be done. Congress passed legislation earlier this year that would force China-based social media company TikTok to sell or face a ban, but that law only targets one company.



Isabella Cimato, 17, from left, Arianna Schaden, 14, and Sofia Harrison, 15, check their phones at Roosevelt Field shopping mall in Garden City, N.Y., on July 27, 2015.

Associated Press

"This is a good first step, but we have more to go," said Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y.

If the child safety bill becomes law, companies would be required to mitigate harm to children, including bullying and violence, the promotion of suicide, eating disorders, substance abuse, sexual exploitation and advertisements for illegal products such as narcotics, tobacco or alcohol. To do that, social media platforms would have to provide minors with options to protect their information, disable addictive product features and opt out of personalized algorithmic recommendations. They would also be required to limit other users from communicating with children and limit features that "increase, sustain, or extend the use" of the platform — such as autoplay for videos or platform rewards.

The idea, Blumenthal and Blackburn say, is for the platforms to be "safe by design."

"The message we are sending to big tech is that kids are not your product," Blackburn said at a news conference as the Senate passed the bill. "Kids are not your profit source." Several tech companies, including Microsoft, X and Snap, have supported the legislation. But there was also criticism that signaled a potential lobbying campaign aimed at the House.

Carl Szabo, a vice president and counsel for NetChoice, a tech industry group that represents X and Snap, along with Google, TikTok and Meta Platforms, said in a statement that the law's "cybersecurity, censorship, and constitutional risks remain unaddressed." He did not elaborate.

And Meta Platforms, which owns Facebook and Instagram, said in a statement that it supports the development of standards but it would instead prefer legislation to require app stores to get parents' approval when teenagers download apps.

Blumenthal and Blackburn have said they wanted to put the burden on companies, not parents. And they have also worked to find a balance between forcing companies to become more responsible for what children see online while also ensuring that Congress does not go too far in regulating what individuals post — an effort to head off potential legal challenges over freedom of expression.

But some critics say the bill still goes too far. The American Civil Liberties Union said the bill could threaten users' privacy and compared it to "book bans and classroom censorship laws."

"The House must block this dangerous bill before it's too late," said Jenna Leventoff, a senior policy counsel at the ACLU.

Some advocacy groups have also expressed concerns that the bill could harm kids who wouldn't be able to access information on LGBTQ+ issues

or reproductive rights — although the bill has been revised to address some of those criticisms, and major LGBTQ+ groups are not opposing the legislation.

Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden, a fierce and longtime advocate for freedom of speech online, said he voted against the bill because of concerns about the censorship of health information for LGBTQ+ teens and the potential for lawsuits against encryption services that help young people stay safe from predators.

The bill also includes an update to child privacy laws that prohibit online companies from collecting personal information from users under 13, raising that age to 17. It would also ban targeted advertising to teenagers and provide what lawmakers call an "eraser button" to delete a minor's personal information. Massachusetts Sen. Ed Markey, sponsored the original legislation in 1998 — the last time Congress passed a child online safety law — and worked with Republican Sen. Bill Cassidy of Louisiana on the update. Markey said that the online space "has come a long way" since the first bill and new tools are needed for parents as teens have struggled with mental health. As their bill stalled for several months, Blumenthal and Blackburn worked closely with the parents of children who have been harmed by social media — either by cyberbullying or social media challenges, extortion attempts, eating disorders, drug deals or other potential dangers. Maurine Molak, the mother of a 16-year-old who died by suicide after "months of relentless and threatening cyberbullying," said she believes the bill can save lives. She urged every senator to vote for it. □

Investigation finds at least 973 Native American children died in U.S. government boarding schools

By **MATTHEW BROWN**
Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — At least 973 Native American children died in the U.S. government's abusive boarding school system, according to the results of an investigation released Tuesday by officials who called on the government to apologize for the schools. The investigation commissioned by Interior Sec. Deb Haaland found marked and unmarked graves at 65 of the more than 400 U.S. boarding schools that were established to forcibly assimilate Native American children into white society. The findings don't specify how each child died, but the causes of death included sickness and abuse during a 150-year period that ended in 1969, officials said. Additional children may have died after becoming sick at school and being sent home, officials said. The findings follow a series of listening sessions held throughout the U.S. over the past two years in which dozens of former students recounted the harsh and often degrading treatment they endured while separated from their families.

"The federal government took deliberate and strategic action through boarding school policies to isolate children from their families, deny them their identities, and steal from them the languages, cultures, and connections that are foundational to Native people," Haaland, a member of the Laguna Pueblo tribe in New Mexico and the country's first Native American Cabinet secretary, said in a Tuesday call with reporters. "Make no mistake," she added, "This was a concerted attempt to eradicate the quote, 'Indian problem,' to either assimilate or destroy native peoples all together." In an initial report released in 2022, officials estimated that more than 500 chil-



Russell Eagle Bear, with the Rosebud Sioux Reservation Tribal Council, talks to U.S. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland during a meeting about Native American boarding schools at Sinte Gleska University in Mission, S.D., on Oct. 15, 2022.

Associated Press

dren died at the schools. The federal government passed laws and policies in 1819 to support the schools, the last of which were still operating in the 1960s. The schools gave Native American kids English names, put them through military drills and forced them to perform manual labor, such as farming, brick-making and working on the railroad, officials said. Former students shared tearful recollections of their experience during listening sessions in Oklahoma, South Dakota, Michigan, Arizona, Alaska and other states. They talked about being punished for speaking their native language, getting locked in basements, and having their hair cut to stamp out their identities. They were sometimes subjected to solitary confinement, beatings and the withholding of food. Many left the schools with only basic vocational skills that gave them few job prospects. Donovan Archambault, 85, the former chairman of the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation in Montana, said beginning at age 11 he was sent away to boarding schools where he was mistreated, forced to cut his hair and prevented from speaking his native language. He said the ex-

perience led him to drink alcohol heavily before he turned his life around more than two decades later. He never talked about his school days with his children until he wrote a book about the experience several years ago. "An apology is needed. They should apologize," Archambault told The Associated Press by phone Tuesday. "But there also needs to be a broader education about what happened to us. To me, it's part of a forgotten history." Haaland said she was personally "sorry beyond words," but she suggested a formal apology should come from the federal government. □

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Project 2025 director leaves Heritage Foundation after Democratic attacks and Trump criticism

By **ALI SWENSON**
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The director of the Heritage Foundation's Project 2025 vision for a complete overhaul of the federal government has stepped down, the conservative think tank confirmed Tuesday. Paul Dans' exit comes after the project "completed exactly what it set out to do: bringing together over 110 leading conservative organizations to create a unified conservative vision, motivated to devolve power from the unelected administrative state, and returning it to the people," Heritage Foundation President Kevin Roberts said in a statement. Roberts said the group is sticking to its original timeline.

But the news comes after Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump has increasingly disavowed Project 2025 amid escalating attacks by Democrats, prompting speculation that Trump's campaign forced the exit. Democrats for the past several months have made Project 2025 a key election-year cudgel, pointing to



Paul Dans, director of Project 2025 at the Heritage Foundation, speaks at the National Religious Broadcasters convention, Feb. 22, 2024, in Nashville, Tenn.

the ultraconservative policy blueprint as a glimpse into how extreme another Trump administration could be. The nearly 1,000-page handbook lays out sweeping changes in the federal government, including altering personnel rules to ensure government workers are more loyal to the president. Yet Trump has repeatedly disavowed the

document, saying on social media he hasn't read it and doesn't know anything about it. At a rally in Michigan earlier this month, he said Project 2025 was written by people on the "severe right" and some of the things in it are "seriously extreme." "President Trump's campaign has been very clear for over a year that Project

2025 had nothing to do with the campaign, did not speak for the campaign, and should not be associated with the campaign or the President in any way," Trump campaign advisers Susie Wiles and Chris LaCivita said in a statement. "Reports of Project 2025's demise would be greatly welcomed and should serve as notice to anyone

or any group trying to misrepresent their influence with President Trump and his campaign it will not end well for you."

Trump campaign representatives did not respond to messages inquiring about whether the campaign asked or pushed for Dans to step down from the project. The Heritage Foundation said Dans left voluntarily and it was not under pressure from the Trump campaign. Dans didn't immediately respond to an emailed request for comment. But it was almost certain that Trump's campaign forced the shakeup, said one former Heritage aide granted anonymity to discuss the situation.

LaCivita had been aggressively monitoring the situation, the person said. It was clear that Project 2025 was becoming a liability for Trump and the party.

For months Trump's campaign had warned outside groups, and Heritage in particular, that they did not speak for the former president, even though the Project 2025 team was staffed with his former White House aides and advisers. □

Associated Press

Income gap between Black and white U.S. residents shrank between Gen Xers and millennials, study says

By **MIKE SCHNEIDER**
Associated Press

The income gap between white and Black young adults was narrower for millennials than for Gen-

eration X, according to a new study that also found the chasm between white people born to wealthy and poor parents widened between the generations.

By age 27, Black Americans born in 1978 to poor parents ended up earning almost \$13,000 a year less than white Americans born to poor parents. That gap had narrowed to about \$9,500 for those born in 1992, according to the study released last week by researchers at Harvard University and the U.S. Census Bureau. The shrinking gap between races was due to greater income mobility for poor Black children and drops in mobility for low-income white children, said the study, which showed little change in earnings outcomes for other race and ethnicity groups during this time period. A key factor was the employment rates

of the communities that people lived in as children. Mobility improved for Black individuals where employment rates for Black parents increased. In communities where parental employment rates declined, mobility dropped for white individuals, the study said. "Outcomes improve ... for children who grow up in communities with increasing parental employment rates, with larger effects for children who move to such communities at younger ages," said researchers, who used census figures and data from income tax returns to track the changes. In contrast, the class gap widened for white people between the generations Gen Xers born

from 1965 to 1980 and millennials born from 1981 to 1996.

White Americans born to poor parents in 1978 earned about \$10,300 less than white Americans born to wealthy parents. For those born in 1992, that class gap increased to about \$13,200 because of declining mobility for people born into low-income households and increasing mobility for those born into high-income households, the study said.

There was little change in the class gap between Black Americans born into both low-income and high-income households since they experienced similar improvements in earnings. □



Activists appeal for a \$15 minimum wage near the Capitol in Washington, Feb. 25, 2021.

Associated Press

Israeli airstrike hits Beirut, killing 1 and wounding dozens in surging tensions with Hezbollah

By BASSEM MROUE and TIA GOLDENBERG Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Israel said it targeted a Hezbollah commander in a rare strike Tuesday on Beirut that killed at least one woman and wounded dozens of people in escalating hostilities with the Lebanese militant group.

The Israeli military said the strike was aimed at the commander allegedly behind the deaths of 12 youths in a weekend rocket attack on the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights, as well as the deaths of numerous Israeli civilians hit in other strikes. It was not immediately clear if the intended target of Tuesday's strike was hit.

Though Hezbollah has issued a rare denial of involvement in the rocket attack Saturday in the town of Majdal Shams, Israel is holding the militant group responsible. "Hezbollah crossed a red line," Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant posted on the platform X shortly after Tuesday's strike.

The two sides have been exchanging near-daily strikes for the past 10 months against the back-



A general view shows a damaged building that was hit by an Israeli airstrike in the southern suburbs of Beirut, Lebanon, Tuesday, July 30, 2024.

drop of the war in Gaza, but had previously kept the conflict at a low level that would not escalate into full-on war. Lebanon's public health ministry said that Tuesday's strike in a southern suburb killed one woman and injured 68 people, some of them seriously. The wounded were taken to nearby hospitals. Bahman Hospital near the site of the blast called on people to donate blood.

Lebanon's state-run National News Agency reported that the strike was carried out with a drone that launched three rockets.

"The Israeli enemy has committed a great stupid act in size, timing and circumstances by targeting an entirely civilian area," Hezbollah official Ali Ammar told Al-Manar TV. "The Israeli enemy will pay a price for this sooner or later."

Lebanese caretaker Prime

Minister Najib Mikati condemned the Israeli attack, saying it hit a few meters from one of the largest hospitals in the capital.

The office of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu did not immediately release a statement, but minutes after the strike sent a photo of the prime minister with his national security advisor and other officials. The airstrike on Beirut's southern suburb of Haret

Hreik - a crowded urban neighborhood where Hezbollah has political and security operations but which is also full of small shops and apartment buildings - damaged several buildings.

It was not immediately clear if any Hezbollah official was hit, a Hezbollah official said. A Lebanese military intelligence official said they had no information when asked by The Associated Press whether a senior Hezbollah security official had escaped the airstrike.

Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity in accordance with regulations. The strike hit an apartment building near to a hospital, collapsing half of the targeted building and severely damaging one next to it. The hospital sustained minor damages, while the surrounding streets were littered with debris and broken glass.

A forklift was in the middle of the street, reaching to the top floors of the destroyed building, while utility crews removed fallen power lines. Crowds gathered to inspect the damages and check on their families. Some of them chanted in support of Hezbollah. □

Associated Press

Australia's foreign minister says Russia-North Korea defense deal is 'risky for the world'

By HYUNG-JIN KIM Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Australia's foreign minister said Tuesday the recent defense deal between North Korea and Russia was "destabilizing" and "risky for the world," after she visited the tense border village shared by North and South Korea on Tuesday. In June, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a pact stipulating mutual military assistance if either country is attacked, deepening worries about the expanding ties between the countries. The U.S. and its partners have steadfastly accused North Korea of supplying much-

needed conventional arms to Russia for its war in Ukraine in return for military and economic assistance. "I also want to say something about the security pact between North Korea and Russia. And say again, this is destabilizing. This is risky for the world and again we say Russia is behaving in ways which are not conducive to peace but are escalatory," Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong told reporters following a visit to the southern side of the Korean border village of Panmunjom. Wong condemned North Korea's extended run of missile tests that she said threaten regional security. "We share great concerns

about DPRK's escalatory reactions, destabilizing actions," she said, referring to North Korea by the acronym of its official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Also Tuesday, Wong met South Korean Foreign Minister Cho Tae-yul in Seoul and agreed to work together with the international community to cope with the North Korean-Russian military partnerships, according to South Korea's Foreign Ministry. Wong also met South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and exchanged opinions on how to improve bilateral relations, Yoon's office said in a statement.

Tensions on the Korean Pen-

insula have been running high in recent months, with North Korea flying trash-

carrying balloons toward South Korea and continuing weapons tests. □



Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong shakes hands with South Korean Foreign Minister Cho Tae-yul prior to their meeting at the foreign ministry in Seoul, South Korea, Tuesday, July 30, 2024.

Associated Press

The Taliban say they no longer recognize Afghan diplomatic missions set up by the former government

By **RIAZAT BUTT**
Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — The Taliban said Tuesday they no longer recognize Afghanistan's diplomatic missions set up by the former, Western-backed government and that they will not honor passports, visas and other documents issued by diplomats associated with the previous administration. It's the latest attempt by the Taliban to take control of Afghanistan's embassies and consulates since returning to power in 2021. Many Taliban leaders are under sanctions, and no country recognizes them as Afghanistan's legitimate rulers.

The country's seat at the United Nations is still held by the former government, which was led by Ashraf Ghani, though the Taliban administration is seeking to claim that seat as well. In a statement posted on the social media platform X, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that documents issued by missions in London, Berlin, Belgium, Bonn, Switzerland, Austria, France, Italy, Greece, Poland, Aus-



Taliban fighters celebrate one year since they seized the Afghan capital, Kabul, in front of the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan, Monday, Aug. 15, 2022.

Associated Press

tralia, Sweden, Canada and Norway are no longer accepted and the ministry "bears no responsibility" for those documents. The documents would include passports, visa stickers, deeds and endorsements. The ministry said people in those countries will in-

stead need to approach embassies and consulates controlled by the Taliban administration the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, as they call their government. "All Afghan nationals living abroad and foreigners can visit the IEA political and consular missions in other countries, other than the

above-mentioned missions, to access consular services," the post said. The Taliban did not immediately respond to queries seeking clarification or additional details. An Afghan national living in London where he is pursuing a master's degree, Asad Mobariz, said he was

disappointed and frustrated with the decision. It's unfair and impractical to expect Afghans in the affected countries to travel to another country for consular services, he said. "This decision disregards our needs and places an undue burden on us," he told The Associated Press. "These services are crucial for my ability to travel, work and maintain my legal status in the U.K." The move puts the burden on Afghans living in Europe and will lead to increased financial strain and potential legal issues for those unable to access consular services locally, he said. Another Afghan national, Adnan Najibi, who lives in Germany, said discrediting embassies was unlikely to benefit the Taliban. "I live in a small town with a relatively low population; however, I still see that there are hundreds of Afghans living here," Najibi said. "If someone previously obtained an Afghan passport, marriage certificate or any other document in a day, it may now take weeks or even longer." □

Hugo Chávez statues targeted across Venezuela in post-election unrest

By **JOSHUA GOODMAN**
Associated Press
LA GUAIRA, Venezuela (AP) — Anti-government activists across Venezuela are toppling giant statues of Hugo Chávez to express

their anger over the alleged stealing of an election by the late president's handpicked successor, Nicolás Maduro. In the seaside city of La Guaira, outside the capi-

tal Caracas, twisted rebar and chunks of concrete lie below a pedestal where a group of protesters Monday night ripped down one likeness of Chávez that was dedicated by Maduro in 2017. A video provided to The Associated Press from one protester shows the moment when the 3.5 meter (12 feet) statue of the leader known as El Comandante was pulled down to raucous shouts of "this government is going to fall." Once removed, the statue was dragged by motorcycles across the plaza, doused in gasoline and set on fire, the protester said. "This is a powerful symbol to them," said the protester, who asked not to be identified for fear she could be arrested. "Every time we tackle one of their symbols,

we're taking away some of their strength." This isn't the first time monuments honoring the creator of the so-called Bolivarian Revolution have been attacked by angry mobs. The same phenomenon occurred during waves of anti-government unrest in 2017 and 2019. But the simultaneous nature and high number of attacks five in the last 24 hours underscores the depth of anger many Venezuelans feel after the National Electoral Council declared Maduro the winner in Sunday's presidential election. The opposition says its candidate, Edmundo Gonzalez, more than doubled the incumbent's vote count. A plainclothes military intelligence officer stopped journalists trying to take photos of what remains of

the destroyed statue in La Guaira. The officer, who didn't identify himself, said the country is "at war" and that any effort to disrespect Chávez was offensive to millions of Venezuelans who revered the former army paratrooper and anti-imperialist icon. Maduro said several people had been arrested in the attacks, which he likened to the images from revolutions pushed by the U.S. in post-Soviet states including Ukraine and Georgia. "What do these people have in their head? In the heart?" Maduro asked in a televised address Monday night in which he broadcast images of some of the attacks. "Just imagine if they one day gain power here, what they would be capable of doing." □



A destroyed statue of the late Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez lays next to its base in Valencia, Venezuela, Tuesday, July 31, 2024, the day after people protested the official election results that certified Chavez's protege, current President Nicolas Maduro, as the winner.

Associated Press



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Planning on snorkeling? Get to know our “Dorado”

(Oranjestad)—If you're ever planning on snorkeling during your vacation on Aruba, you may spot fish that you can't recognize. One of these may be the “Dorado”, a common fish that swims all year long in the waters of Aruba. Here's some information about the beloved Dorado.

Dorado has many different names it can be referred to. Dral, Dorao, Drals, Drado, are some of them in Papiamentu. In English, it is also called Mahi Mahi, Dolphinfish, or Dorado. It's a good example to reflect on why there can be many names. The same fish becomes known by different common names, why? Common names come only when a group of people, to understand each other, assign a name to a fish. Mahi Mahi,

for example, comes from Hawaii and means "very strong". Dorado is based on Spanish and refers to the golden yellow color that the fish shines with under the sun. Why it's called Dolphinfish in English is not well defined and while there are several stories around this, none have been confirmed.

Dorado is found in all tropical to subtropical oceans around the world. Dorado is very popular both for recreational fishing and for consumption. It is known among fishermen as an exciting catch and a fish that puts up a good fight. Its meat is very good for consumption and it is also commercially fished for that reason.

They grow very fast, up to 2.7 inches (almost 7 cm)

per week. They can live up to a maximum of 5 years although very few reach that age. Most become adults within 1 year but many become reproductive after just 5 or 6 months and reproduce very quickly too.

They live in open water on the surface most of the time. Many fish seek them around sushi lines or floating objects on the sea. Often you will find a group landing together and if you keep a male on the line, often the others will stay close or can keep the group interested by giving shrimp or squid.

Description:

Dorado has a distinctive body. It has a large tail and its long, flat body ends in a large blunt head. Its color of yellow and green or blue makes it immediately rec-



ognizable, even with small variations in these colors.

Dorado has clear differences between adult females and males. The male is larger and can easily reach 50 to 80 pounds and has a much flatter head compared to the female. Therefore, male Dorados are also called "bull

Dorado".

Dorado can be found in our waters around the island all year round, but there are periods when it is easier to find than others. □

Source: The Department of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries (Santa Rosa).

Lessons from our elders: Plants and fruits for medicinal use (part 2)



(Oranjestad)—In last week's edition, we shared with our readers some medicinal use for plants and fruits, passed down from our elders through generations. This week, we present two more uses of fruits and plants for medicinal use.

Sweet potato

According to our elders, sweet potato is mostly use-

ful for low blood pressure. People who suffer from low blood pressure were advised to eat sweet potato 2 to 3 times a week. However, if you have high blood pressure, it is best not to eat too much sweet potato, as this raises blood pressure. Sweet potatoes are also great for people who work hard labor jobs, and it's been said to be aid blood

circulation in the body, as well as help those with hemorrhoids or diarrhea.

Many of our elders opted to plant sweet potatoes themselves, mostly because of how easy it was to do so. Cut the end of a sweet potato let it sit in shallow water until it starts to sprout. Then you may plant it in the ground. Sweet potatoes need plenty of water to grow, especially in the first week in the ground. It was said that once you start to notice the ground crack underneath the flowers, it is time to harvest. This should happen around month 3.

Pomegranate

Pomegranates are also one of the easier fruits to plant and harvest. Originated from Persia, this plant can grow almost ev-



erywhere. In Aruba, there are many homes that have a tiny or big pomegranate tree. You may be wondering what the difference is between a small and big pomegranate tree, for which the answer is based on harvest time. Tiny trees produce tinier pomegranates that can be harvested early on. Contrarily, big trees produce bigger pomegranates, but they need enough time to fully ripen before harvesting, otherwise you might end up with bitter seeds. Pomegranate trees are also very easy to plant. In essence, if you just throw the seeds on the ground, they could

grow into a tree.

In terms of medicinal use, pomegranate skins are said to have a few benefits for our health. According to customs, pomegranate skin tea can help those that suffer from diarrhea. Dried pomegranate skin tea is also good for people who have worms. Pomegranate flowers can be boiled to make a drink and this can be used for irritated gums; just take a swig and let the tea sit in your mouth for a couple minutes. □

Source: Remedi i Kustumber di nos Bieunan (Medicine and Customs of our Elderly) by Dinah Veeris



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Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Marriott Aruba Ocean Club!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. The honorees were respectively honored with a certificate for their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say “Masha Danki” to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three levels of honor are as follows:

- Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
- Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
- Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:
Distinguished Visitors
Mr. George & Sherill Godfrey from San Antonio Texas, United States.
Mr. Gregory & Mrs. Sarah Rodriguez from San Antonio Texas, United States.

Mr. Jorgino Willems representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Marriott Aruba Ocean Club bestowed the certificate upon the honorees, presented them with gifts, and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, as their home away from home.

- The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were:
- Aruba's people.
 - Aruba's beaches.
 - Aruba's weather.



- Aruba's restaurants.
 - Aruba is very safe.
 - “We got married here in 2015 on Renaissance Island”
- On behalf of the Aruba Tourism

Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the “One Happy Island”.☐

Aruban snacks and where to find them

ORANJESTAD — Want to taste something different for a change? How about some Aruban snacks that you can find all around the island? Hop in your car, and go to these locations to find some of the most popular and tasty snacks that are beloved by our locals.

One of the staples of Aruban cuisine and snacks is the Pastechi. Pastechi is a Caribbean fried pastry that is filled with cheese, meat, chicken, veggies and sometimes even fish! Or perhaps you might want to try a croquette, locally called a “kroket,” which is a crusty fried snack with typically a meat and dough mix filling. The Aruban kroket is based on its Dutch counterpart, the “bitterbal”. These two snacks are typically found in all local snack trucks, which can be found all over the island, including on the side of the



main road that stretches from San Nicolas to the Hotel Area. You can also find pastechis and kroketts at local bakeries and snack shops, like Bright Bakery in Piedra Plat, Huchada in Santa Cruz or Pastechi House in the city center. These places may also sell other snacks and sandwiches too, perfect for on-the-road lunch break. While you're at it, why not accompany your snack with a refreshing “batido”? Batidos are fruit shakes, typically made with added milk for some creaminess. However, you can also ask to hold the milk. Batidos are commonly found in snack shops too. You may find some batido shops next the flea markets downtown, or if you're on your way to San Nicolas, at Mau-chi Smoothies and Juice Bar in Savaneta (located at the side of the

main road).

If you are looking for something a bit more fresh and healthy, why not try some coconuts, or shaved ice from local vendors? These vendors carry their little shop at the back of their truck, so they are ever-moving around the island. However, there are a few spots where you can almost always find a coconut/shaved ice vendor:

1. Right next to the Red Anchor in San Nicolas, on the way to Baby Beach.

2. Along the main road next to the airport field.
3. At the California Light House.
4. At the Alto Vista Chapel.

These vendors may also sell other delights, like the beloved coconut-based dessert “cocada” or peanuts. All in all, in Aruba, you can always find some place to take a break and have a bite of something local, you maybe just might have to look for them!☐

Photo credit: wheninaruba.com



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Feeling parched? Grab refreshment by the side of the road!

(Oranjestad)—Touring the island in the blistering heat can leave one feeling rather thirsty and looking to cool off. Luckily there are a few stands along the roads of Aruba that can offer you just what you need: a nice, refreshing beverage!

These “coconut stands” can be found at several locations on the island, where you can cool off with delicious smoothies, drinks, snacks, and of course, fresh coconuts! Perfect during family outings around the island, these stands can be found in the following locations:

- Near the red Anchor in San Nicolas
- On the Linear Park in Oranjestad (in front of airport runway)
- At the California Light House hill
- Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruin



- Bushiribana Beach (Near the Ling & Song Supermarket) □

Exploring the Mainstreet of San Nicolas

SAN NICOLAS— At Just 11 miles southeast from Oranjestad you will enter the city San Nicolas, also known as Sunrise City or Chocolate City. A city that is rich in authentic culture and island charm. San Nicolas is Aruba's second largest city and was once a bustling company town dominated by the oil industry since the early 1930's.

Over the course of four decades, its demographics had changed immensely due to a stream of Afro-Caribbean and South American workers who came to fill the jobs in the oil refinery between the 1920's until the 1960's. To this day traces of the multicultural influences in culinary offerings and customs, housing and population are clearly visible in San Nicolas - more than anywhere else on the island.

Flow of history

if you are looking for history San Nicolas has it. Here

you will find three amazing museums, The Museum of Industry, the Community Museum and the Carnival Euphoria, all within walking distance from one another. The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history which began in the 19th century. Here you will learn about gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and the tourism industries which made San Nicolas once a bustling business center. Experience the touching stories



of those who were part of this history.

Nicolaas Store built in 1940 and renovated in 2014 is the home of the Community Museum. The collection is remarkable and spans millennia. Ancient fossils stand next to tableaus of an authentically recreated colonial kitchen and bedroom and 19th-century barber-shop, just to name a few of the items of old-time Aruba that has been preserved. A collection of artifacts and other objects of artistic, cultural, historical, or scientific importance can be found here for the purpose of education or enjoyment.

Carnival Euphoria is showcasing Aruba's Carnival. See how are Carnival has developed over the past 65 years.

The new San Nicolas

In the shadow of the refinery, an art capital is quietly beginning to grow. This is the new San Nicolas, a place that is starting to become a magnet for all that



is young, cool and hip in Aruba. Indeed, San Nicolas has all of the ingredients of an emerging cultural hub — varied history, interesting architecture, and, perhaps most importantly, an urban layout that makes it walkable. As you walk around, the streets are silent but the walls are loud, filled with bright, colorful murals painted by a collection of artists from around the world. Thanks to the efforts of various art organizations in Aruba, such as Art Rules Aruba and Aruba Art Fair, San Nicolas has had quite the aesthetic makeover with regards to vibrant street art. Each year more and more stunning murals are replacing broken down buildings with colorful art

pieces that keep brightening up SunriseCity.

Must See, Do, Buy & Eat

A little bit of everything can be found in the main street. Stores selling shoes, clothing, jewelry you name it. Arts & crafts by Cosecha store & Creative Center, a design store in which you can immerse yourself in discovering genuine and locally made arts and crafts which reflect the diversification of the Aruban craft heritage and the artistic supply of artisans. Don't miss out on trying the exquisite food offered by the cafes and restaurants or just enjoy a peaceful walk admiring the murals, mosaic benches and all the history San Nicolas has to offer. □



Article by Etnia Nativa

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Two centuries of Oranjestad

Episode CCLXIV - 264

Etnia Nativa is a unique native gem where education meets entertainment, sharing interactive experiences with an exclusive few. An unparalleled private opportunity to tour a beautiful property made with reused materials collected by the owner, an unrivaled columnist and island cultural expert. Book your visit and dive deep into the navel of Aruba. From that educational perspective, in this new episode, we will share a brief glimpse of how the capital city of Aruba came to be.

In a few days, the capital of Aruba, Oranjestad (Orange City), will reach its 200 years of existence. It was on August 3, 1824, that officially its name was first proclaimed. During this episode, we go back in time to reminisce about its endearing history. Before 1790, South Savaneta, closed to the water edge, was the capital of Aruba; however, at the time, the area known as TaraTata, or Horses Bay, turned out to be more accessible for ships wanting to anchor. The first solid buildings in Oranjestad were built in 1797, but within thirty years it had expanded into a small town. Its houses were not large and all had only one floor, except perhaps the commander's house. At that time, no one suspected that a place was emerging whose name two centuries later would resonate within the world's tourist sector.

When tiles brought from Europe were introduced into the construction of limestone houses in the bay area, many roofs were completely covered with this bright, intense orange color that gave a beautiful illuminated view to the area. The houses of the less well-off were built of mud, a native construction method known locally as "torto." Their roofs were made of corn stalks and palm leaves and sealed also with mud or clay. By 1827, the emerging town had been divided into an eastern and western half. The eastern half, with 77 houses, was the most elegant quarter, and a good number of those houses were built of local limestone or bricks. While the western half of the present-day coastal area had over 100 houses, only 23 were made of brick. Overall, the buildings in Oranjestad were built in a



chaotic manner, so much so that at night, it was impossible to make your way through the maze of scattered houses without hitting obstacles; there was no lighting, and the roads were in poor condition. Some of them were situated less than fifty yards away from the cannons of Fort Zoutman, which prevented the garrison from opening fire on any ship or object in the bay without firing directly at them. It was not until the end of the 19th century that the streets now called Nassau and Wilhelmina Street had a few hundred yards of pavement made up of what the Dutch call baby's heads, i.e., cobblestones. What today remains of old Oranjestad are a few buildings, such as the famous Fort Zoutman, which dates back to 1796 and whose outer walls constitute the oldest stone

building in Aruba (Island Insight episode 214: "Fort Aruba, two in one"). The tower in front of the fort and current entrance was built in 1868, and the inscription on the tower will draw attention to the initials W III, meaning William III, in honor of the reigning Dutch king during its construction.

It was the cluster of gleaming orange roofs in keeping with the Dutch Royal Family's name "Van Orange" that on August 3, 1824, inspired the then commander of Aruba, Jacob Thielen I, to first propose the name Oranjestad for the emerging capital city located at Horse's Bay. This fact is known to Etnia Nativa through their personal family history. On that occasion, the name was immediately hailed by the entire town, which erupted in cheers of "Long live Oranjestad!" and "May it grow and prosper!"



If you liked our native stories and are interested in learning the true identity of Aruba, a visit to Etnia Nativa would be a fantastic choice. It has been a trend setter since 1994, as a co-founder of projects such as Arikok National Park, the Archaeological Museum, and the Artisan Foundation, among others. Every week, this newspaper continues to share its valuable knowledge. Don't miss the opportunity to feel the island's spirit through learning real stories that are not just remembered; they resonate, they're felt, and they stir souls. Book your visit: WhatsApp +297 592 2702 etnianativa03@gmail.com.□

The district of Savaneta

A quick history guide to the island's first capital

(Oranjestad)—Before Oranjestad became the island nation's capital, Aruba's first capital was the district of Savaneta. Here is where the cultural identity of Aruba was born, and from where the rest of the island developed into what it is today.

Savaneta is said to have been the first place where the Caquetio inhabitants first stepped foot on the island. Though there isn't hard evidence to back this up, but considering the legend of the Cacique Arua, it is believed that there were already movements on Aruba—and Savaneta—around 88 AD.

The Caquetios probably made their way to the island either from Venezuela, Colombia or other Caribbean islands in the region, but with good weather it was relatively easy for them to travel back and forth in their canoes. So, since the Caquetios discovered the island, Aruba found her first form of civilization.

It wasn't until 1499 when Aruba met another group of people who set foot on the island: the Spanish explorer Alonso de Ojeda. De Ojeda first took notice of Aruba off the coast of Venezuela, during his exploration of the Latin American country. This was on August 9th, 1499. However, de Ojeda didn't actually sail to the island till 4 days later, on August 23rd, 1499. This was the beginning of the Spanish era on Aruba (1499-1636).

Alonso usually didn't stop at every island or land he saw, especially not in the Caribbean. He would often take notice of land from afar and continue sailing. However,

Aruba was an exception. He had heard that there were "quebracho" trees on the island, which were commonly used to produce dye or paint. But since these trees could not be found in Savaneta, he continued to search in the area of what is now known as Santa Cruz. The best way to transport the tree barks was via a route passing through Savaneta, and so the first road between Savaneta and Santa Cruz was made.

The Dutch colonial era (1636-1805)

During the 80-year war between The Netherlands and Spain, Dutch explorers and merchants began to travel to the ABC islands. Once they landed in Aruba, they deported the small Arawakan and Spanish community that was living on the island. This was the beginning of colonization of the ABC islands by the Dutch empire. Around the same, the West Indian Company (WIC) was born. Bonaire and Curaçao were mostly used for plantations, where the Dutch had transported slaves from Africa. Aruba, on the other hand, was mostly used to raise cattle and to house the haring factory. The Dutch had often forced the indigenous community to work for them.

In 1636, when the Netherlands won the war against Spain, the country surrendered the islands to the Dutch.

The Dutch administration appointed the island's first commander, an Irish man named N. Williams. Because the Dutch were interested in other Caribbean islands and countries in South America, they imported Dutch merchants and business



Commandeursbaai (Commander's Bay) at Savaneta

men, all of whom resided in Savaneta. This way, Savaneta officially became the island's first capital.

However, at the end of the 18th century, the commander at the time, J.R. Lauffer, moved his office to what is now "Horse Bay" in Oranjestad. Because the highest office on the island moved away from Savaneta, the capital lost its title to what was called then Playa.

How Savaneta got its name

The name Savaneta probably has a Spanish origin. It was said that when the Spanish climbed a hill called Yara, they saw that the area was mostly open and had no big trees. In Spanish, such a land area is called a "sabana".

Because of its land surface, Sava-

neta was a great place to construct cattle farms. From here, the farmer culture on Aruba was born. Before the Aruban Gold Rush and the construction of the Refinery in San Nicolas, most residents were farmers, and Savaneta had many inhabitants that farmed fruits and vegetables. They also continued the tradition of raising cattle, like goat, sheep, pigs and horses. Savaneta was one of the first places on the island to have a general farming culture. From this culture, many other traditions were born, like the Dera Gay Holiday that we celebrate every year on June 24th. □

Source: *Historia di Savaneta (History of Savaneta)* by Adolf "Dufi" Kock.



Alonso de Ojeda



"Quebracho" (Kibrahacha) tree; used to make dye and paint

CROSSWORD

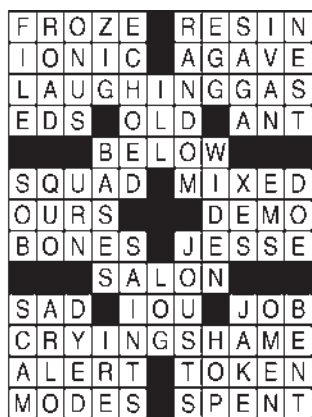
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Wine holder
- 7 Mall unit
- 11 "Twelfth Night" heroine
- 12 Hockey's Gordie
- 13 Piano parts
- 14 Prayer ender
- 15 Tawdry nature
- 17 Church group
- 20 Cookie quantity
- 23 Summer sign
- 24 These days
- 26 Una's place
- 27 — Alamos
- 28 Misery
- 29 Baker's needs
- 31 Silent approval
- 32 Rental choice
- 33 Inquires
- 34 King of the fairies
- 37 Cry like a baby
- 39 Bird abode
- 43 Skin woe
- 44 Meat pie
- 45 Ordeal
- 46 Sacks out

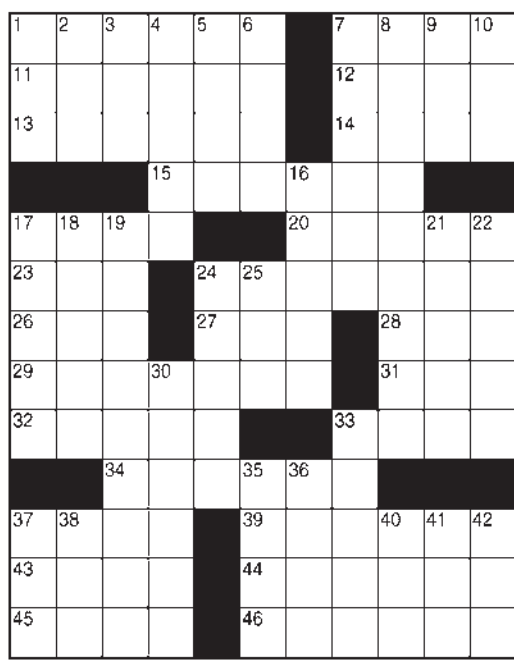
DOWN

- 1 Beat walker
- 2 Saloon order
- 3 Free (of)
- 4 Nautical call
- 5 Crowd into
- 6 Move carefully
- 7 Captain
- 8 Origins
- 9 Have debts
- 10 Signing need
- 16 Ocean trench
- 17 Strikes, in a way



Yesterday's answer

- 18 Like Poe tales
- 19 Dis-appointments
- 21 Swindler
- 22 Listens to
- 24 Flared dress
- 25 Dijon denial
- 30 Laptop's kin
- 33 Biscotti flavor
- 35 Hip-hop songs
- 36 Track shape
- 37 Softball need
- 38 Court feat
- 40 Chowd down
- 41 Shred
- 42 "You bet!"



5-8

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

5-8 CRYPTOQUOTE

L JXYXK AXXB GCKX IBCJX
POIJ ROXJ L'G PKMLJU PC SVP
EVJEQKXXJ CJ GM WIQH.

— TLGGM HLGGB

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: TO HOPE IS TO GIVE YOURSELF TO THE FUTURE — AND THAT COMMITMENT TO THE FUTURE IS WHAT MAKES THE PRESENT INHABITABLE. — REBECCA SOLNIT

Cruise ship Schedule: August 6 - 27 2024

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
TUE	06	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS CARNIVAL HORIZON CARNIVAL MARDI GRAS	08.00 09.00 13.00	20.00 22.00 23.00	B C I	1 1 1
WED	07	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	09.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	13	CELEBRITY BEYOND CARNIVAL CELEBRATION CARNIVAL VISTA	08.00 08.00 13.00	21.00 22.00 23.00	B C I	1 1 1
THU	14	ENCHANTED PRINCESS	08.00	18.00	C	1
WED	20	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	22.00	C	1
WED	27	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	C	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basicbut important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Supermarket hours



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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How to reach us!

Downtown

Orville Peck makes queer country for everyone. On 'Stampede,' stars like Willie Nelson join the fun

By MARIA SHERMAN
AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — It is not easy to be an outsider in country music, but Orville Peck has made a career out of it. On his third album, "Stampede," his nonconformist spirit has led to collaborations with everyone from Willie Nelson and Elton John to Mickey Guyton and Kylie Minogue. When the South African musician released his debut album, "Pony," in 2019, little was known about him. A country crooner with a deep baritone more in line with outlaws like Merle Haggard and Waylon Jennings than anything on contemporary radio, Peck hid his identity (Peck is a pseudonym) and his face behind a mask. A wide strip of leather completely obscured his forehead down to the nose bridge; the rest of his visage was concealed underneath a large Stetson and a foot of cascading fringe. As his public profile rose and he continued to release new music, Peck started slowing stripping back the mask. Now, as he prepares to re-



Country music artist Orville Peck poses for portraits on Wednesday, June 26, 2024, in New York to promote his third album "Stampede."

Associated Press

lease "Stampede," a duets album, only the hat and eye mask remain. "I think it's sort of in parallel with my confidence," he says. "When I first started my first album I really needed the mask." It takes some self-assurance to release a duets album. Each song is a brand-new

collaboration, a previously unexplored creative experiment, and a balancing act. "Every single song is me, 50%, and then 50% the other artist," he says. "It's a long tradition in country to do duets and have sort of duos. You know, I think of Johnny Cash and June Carter, Gram Parsons and Emmylou Harris," he

says, suggesting that this kind of album would arrive later in his career. "But then when Willie asked me to do (the song) 'Cowboys,' it was like, 'Oh, is this maybe the right moment?' And so, then I asked Elton, and then I asked Kylie, and then, you know, so on, so forth." A dream get that

didn't work out? Dolly Parton. In the case of Nelson, Peck is referring to the 1981 queer country cult classic, Ned Sublette's "Cowboys Are Frequently, Secretly Fond of Each Other," covered by Nelson in 2006 and an infrequent staple of Peck's live show. When Nelson and Peck played a festival together a few years ago, the country legend invited Peck onto his tour bus for a cup of coffee and suggested they re-do the song as a duet. He told Peck, "It's more important now than ever," Peck recalls. "I think the fact that he wanted to do this particular song with me, and the fact that his reasoning behind it was in support, and motivated in the encouragement of LGBTQ people, I mean, it's like the most validating thing ever." After, they'd film a music video for the duet at Nelson's Luck Ranch in Texas. Across "Stampede," too, are non-traditional duets and covers. There's "Papa Was a Rodeo," a bluegrass cover of the Magnetic Fields' indie rock song, now with Molly Tuttle and Golden Highway. □

Norah O'Donnell leaving as anchor of CBS evening newscast after election

By DAVID BAUDER
AP Media Writer

Norah O'Donnell said Tuesday she is leaving after the presidential election as anchor of the "CBS Evening News," a post she has held for five years. O'Donnell, 50, has been the network's top anchor since 2019, and prior to that was a host of CBS' morning news show and White



This image released by CBS News shows Norah O'Donnell, anchor and managing editor of "CBS Evening News with Norah O'Donnell," during the 2024 Republican National Convention in Milwaukee, Wis., on July 16, 2024.

Associated Press

House Correspondent covering President Barack Obama's administration. She told her CBS News colleagues in an email Tuesday that she's looking forward to a change.

"I have spent 12 years in the anchor chair here at CBS News, tied to a daily broadcast and the rigors of a relentless news cycle,"

she wrote. "It's time to do something different." She said she is staying with CBS News to contribute interviews and other stories, but in a role not fully defined. CBS says it is committed to the broadcast continuing, but gave no indication of who will be replacing her. The "CBS Evening News," the perch from which Walter Cronkite and Dan Rather held forth for many years, generally runs third in the network ratings behind ABC's "World News Tonight" with David Muir and the "NBC Nightly News" with Lester Holt. During the week of July 15-21, for instance, ABC averaged 6.8 million viewers, NBC had 5.5 million and CBS had 4 million, the Nielsen company said.

Prior to the onset of cable news, the three broadcast evening news anchors were generally considered the most powerful journalists in television news, and are still influential. O'Donnell said a recent interview with Pope Francis, which became her first prime-time special for the network, got her thinking about doing something new. She'll focus on interviews in the future for various CBS broadcast and digital properties. "Norah's superpower is her ability to secure and then masterfully deliver unparalleled interviews and stories that set the news cycle and capture the cultural zeitgeist," said Wendy McMahon, CBS News chair. □

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U.S. lawmakers accuse Olympic leaders of blackmail over their fight with IOC, World Anti-Doping Agency

By EDDIE PELLIS
AP National Writer

Instead of reexamining a drug-fighting law Olympic leaders don't like, a bipartisan group in Congress is proposing a new bill that would hold back funding for the World Anti-Doping Agency if it doesn't do its job better. One Republican and one Democrat from both the Senate and the House rolled out a bill Tuesday that would make permanent a now-temporary ability of the U.S. office of drug control to withhold the \$3 million-plus payment the government is supposed to give to WADA each year.

"I think WADA looks really bad here," said Sen. Chris Van Hollen, D-Md.

"I don't think their position looks at all sustainable."

Last week, the IOC awarded Salt Lake City the 2034 Winter Olympics but only after extracting a promise that organizers would work to un-



Witold Banka, president of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), attends a press conference at the 2024 Summer Olympics, Thursday, July 25, 2024, in Paris, France.

Associated Press

dercut a 2020 law that was designed to root out international doping conspiracies. WADA largely supported the IOC position, threatening last week that it might hold America's anti-doping

agency in noncompliance if it finds the law does not conform with international rules. Both organizations have lobbied against the law, which passed without a dissenting vote, saying it gives too

much authority to the United States to enforce world anti-doping rules.

That law is currently being used to investigate WADA and other agencies' handling of one of a handful

of cases involving Chinese swimmers that have marred the start of the Olympics.

"This brazen attempt by the IOC and WADA to force Utah to interfere in an investigation would win the gold medal in blackmail," said U.S. Rep. John Moolenaar, R-Mich.

The bill's other co-sponsors are Sen. Marsha Blackburn, R-Tenn., and Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi, D-Ill. Moolenaar said the "Restoring Confidence in the World Anti-Doping Agency Act" would direct Rahul Gupta, the head of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, to ensure WADA adheres to best practices in eliminating conflicts of interest and also to "maintain strict standards to counter state-sponsored doping efforts."

Advocates also would like to see better athlete representation among WADA decision-makers — an area the agency has tried to improve on in recent years. □

Former NHL all-star Eric Staal inks 1-day deal with Carolina Hurricanes to retire after 18 seasons

By AARON BEARD
AP Sports Writer

Former NHL all-star Eric Staal is retiring after 18 seasons. The Carolina Hurricanes announced Tuesday that Staal had signed a one-day contract to retire as a member of the organization that originally drafted him No. 2 overall in 2003 and won a Stanley Cup with him three years later. The Hurricanes said they will retire Staal's No. 12 jersey in the upcoming season. "From the time I arrived in Raleigh at 18 years old and throughout my 12 years there, I felt the love

and support of the fans and organization in a way that will always feel special to me," Staal said in a statement. "There was no doubt in my mind that when it became time to hang up my skates, I would want to retire as a Carolina Hurricane. To now also know that the team is retiring my No. 12 is truly humbling and I am extremely grateful and honored."

Staal, 39, had 455 goals and 608 assists over 1,365 games in a career that included stints with the New York Rangers, Minnesota, Buffalo, Montreal and Flor-

ida. Staal last played for the Panthers in the 2022-23 season, his last game coming in the Stanley Cup Final. Staal played in six NHL All-Star Games, earning MVP honors in 2008. Staal made a quick mark on Carolina with 45 goals and 55 assists in his second NHL season for the only 100-point season in Carolina history in 2005-06. That team, captained by current Carolina coach Rod Brind'Amour, went on to win the Cup with Staal assisting on Justin Williams' empty-net clincher in Game 7 against Edmonton. □



Carolina Hurricanes' Eric Staal (12) speaks with Victor Rask (49) during the first period of an NHL hockey game against the Boston Bruins in Raleigh, N.C., Friday, Feb. 26, 2016. NHL veteran Eric Staal is retiring after an 18-year career in the league.

Associated Press



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Simone Biles and Team USA earn 'redemption' by powering to Olympic gold in women's gymnastics

By **WILL GRAVES**
AP National Writer

PARIS (AP) — Simone Biles, Jordan Chiles and Sunisa Lee spent the night before perhaps the biggest gymnastics meet of their lives restless.

There was a tension in the air. They'd all been in the Olympic spotlight before, experiences that left them with medals but also the kind of scars be they physical, psychological or both that heal but never really go away.

And here they were in Paris, the leaders of a star-laden U.S. team everyone expected to finish atop the medal stand, and something wasn't right.

In a different time, in a different era, it might have festered. Might have followed them onto the floor at Bercy Arena and into the history books, too.

This is not a different time. This is not a different era. This is now.

So the oldest team the U.S. has ever sent to the Olympics, a group that has spent their respective careers breaking barriers about what a female gymnast can and can't do, what they can and can't be, did something they never used to do.

They talked, with Biles three years removed from a Tokyo Games that dragged the conversation around mental health and sports kicking and screaming into the light right in the middle of it.

"I think there was a little bit of struggle," she said. "So it was really needed."

By the time they walked onto the floor for the Olympic final, the tension was gone, largely replaced with joy.



Members of Team USA celebrate after winning the gold medal in the women's artistic gymnastics team finals round at Bercy Arena at the 2024 Summer Olympics, Tuesday, July 30, 2024, in Paris, France.

Associated Press

And not soon after, gold. The self-described "Redemption Tour," the moniker given to a team filled with women who wanted to return to the Games for deeply personal reasons, ended with Biles and the Americans where they have almost always been since she burst onto the scene 11 years ago: on top of the podium, the rest of the world looking up.

Eight years after winning gold in Rio with a group that called Aly Raisman grandma because she was all of 22, Biles now 27 and married was back again with Jade Carey (24), Chiles (23), Lee (21) and teenager Hezly Rivera at her side.

"We don't have to be put in the box anymore," Biles said.

No, they don't.

With Biles at her show-stopping best, the Americans' total of 171.296 was well clear of Italy and Brazil and

the exclamation point of a yearlong run in which Biles has cemented her legacy as the greatest ever in her sport, and among the best in the history of the Olympics.

"She's the greatest of all greats," said Chiles, who now has gold to go with the team silver she, Lee and Biles earned in Tokyo, when Biles removed herself from the team final to protect herself.

Chiles, who seemed like a longshot to make it this spring after injuries piled up, was pretty good in her own right. She began the night by drilling her double-twisting Yurchenko vault, sending the Americans on a four-apparatus stop on their "Tour" that felt equal parts coronation and celebration. By the time Biles, the left calf that bothered her during qualifying heavily taped, stepped onto the floor for the final event

a floor exercise set to music by Taylor Swift and Beyonce it was over.

She joked she knew she simply needed to stay on her feet to win. She did more than that, providing an exclamation point on the U.S.'s third gold in its last four trips to the Games.

The Americans remain peerless (if not flawless, this is gymnastics after all) when at their best.

And over two hours in front of a crowd that included everyone from tennis great Serena Williams and actor Natalie Portman, Biles left little doubt about anything. Her status as the sport's greatest of all time. Her ability to move past the "twisties" that derailed her in Japan. Her spot in the pantheon of the U.S. Olympic movement.

She now has a staggering 38 medals in major international competitions. Eight of those have come under

the Olympic rings, moving her past Shannon Miller for the most by an American gymnast.

Yet her return wasn't so much about winning. That's never really been the point anyway, just a byproduct of her unparalleled excellence. It was about a joy she had lost somewhere along the way.

It seems to have returned. She leaned into the crowd that roared at every flip, every leap and, yes, every twist. With her husband on break from NFL training camp waving an American flag while sitting next to her parents, Biles did what she has done so well for so long save for a couple of difficult days in Japan during a pandemic: she dominated.

Biles met with her therapist in the morning to put her in the right mindset. There was brief very brief moment of trepidation as she raced down the vault runway, the event that began to spin out of control in Tokyo.

Only this time, she essentially stuck her Cheng vault, the one that sends her spinning through the air in a fraction of a second.

Afterward, she exhaled.

"I was like 'Yes, please no flashbacks or anything,'" Biles said. "But I did feel a lot of relief. And as soon as I landed I was like 'Oh yeah, we're going to do this.'"

Yes they were. Just like always.

The only real drama centered on who would finish next to the Americans on the medal stand.

Italy, which was a surprising second to the U.S. during qualifying, returned to the podium for the first time since 1928 by holding off Brazil for silver. □